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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

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The following is the disposition of units of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) forces as of late July and early August 1951:

1. As of 25 July a new DRV division, the 314, was being formed in Bac Kan (105-50, 22-08). This division is composed of the independent 246 Regiment plus local frontier units made up of Chinese, Lung, and Tho from the Cao Bang area.
2. 320 Division
 - a. The 52 Regiment was in the area between Chi Ne and Xuan Tai (105-34, 20-53) on 29 July.
 - b. As of 29 July, the Headquarters of the 48 Regiment was at Cho Bo (105-10, 20-46). The 136 Battalion was at Vu Ban (105-26, 20-27), 138 Battalion was at Phuoc Long (105-41, 20-20), and 122 Battalion was at Xich Tho (105-46, 20-25).
3. 312 Division
 - a. As of 30 July, 130 and 154 Battalions of 209 Regiment were in Thanh Hoa Province.
4. 304 Division
 - a. The 9 Regiment was in Do Luong (105-18, 18-54) as of 29 July.
5. 316 Division
 - a. Division headquarters was at Tam Lung in the vicinity of Dong Dang (106-42, 21-56) as of 24 July.

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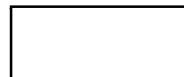
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- 2 -

- b. As of 26 July, the 439 Battalion of 175 Regiment was 20 kilometers east of An Chau (106-43, 21-16) while the 215 Battalion was 30 kilometers south of Chu (106-34, 21-22).
- c. As of 27 July, Headquarters of the 174 Regiment was four kilometers northwest of Loc Binh (106-55, 21-44), 149 Battalion was in the vicinity of Lang Son, and 155 Battalion was eight kilometers southeast of Lang Son.

6. 308 Division

- a. The 322 Battalion of 88 Regiment was in Thai Nguyen as of 19 July.

7. 306 Division

- a. The Division was at Thai Nguyen on 2 August and was not up to combat strength.

25X1 Comment. The continued presence of strong DRV regular forces in northern Annam remains puzzling. To date these units have shown no direct signs of preparing for an offensive. Their presence may be a tactic designed to (a) extend French lines, (b) cover possible large-scale Chinese Communist "infiltration" from Yunnan and/or (c) prepare the way for a DRV offensive into Laos.

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